



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RESERVE

944th Fighter Wing
Office of Public Affairs
Luke AFB, AZ 85309

COLONEL DEREK P. RYDHOLM

Colonel Derek P. Rydholm is the Wing Commander of the 944th Fighter Wing, Air Force Reserve, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

As a Formal Training Unit, the wing trains F-16 pilots in initial, recurrent, and instructor pilot qualifications. Also fully trains all unit reservists to the highest standards of Combat Readiness.

Col Rydholm was born at Johnson Air Force Base, Japan. The son of a career Air Force pilot, he is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical science.

Upon graduation, he completed Pilot Training in Beeville, TX, before being sent to Fleet Replacement Training in the F-14 Tomcat at NAS Oceana VA.

After flying F-14s operationally for three years, Col Rydholm was given the opportunity to fly F-16s as an Exchange pilot at Homestead AFB FL. During that assignment, as he was completing his commitment to the Navy, he was offered an opportunity to continue flying the F-16 as an Air Reserve Technician in the 482d Fighter Wing. Before being assigned as the Operations Group Commander at Homestead, Col Rydholm served as the 93d Fighter Squadron Operations Officer for more than six years as well as the 482d Fighter Wing Chief of Standardization and Evaluation. He is a graduate of the Naval Fighter Weapons School "Top Gun" program and a command pilot with more than 3300 hours in six different aircraft.



EDUCATION:

1983 Bachelor of Science degree in physical science, U.S. Naval Academy, MD
1988 U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, Naval Air Station Miramar, CA
1997 Air Command and Staff College seminar, Homestead ARB, FL
2000 Air War College correspondence course, Homestead ARB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. July 1979 – midshipman,, U.S. Naval Academy MD
2. June 1983 – gymnastics coach, U.S. Naval Academy MD
3. October 1983 – student pilot, Naval Air Station, Pensacola FL
4. June 1984 - student pilot, Naval Air Station, Beeville TX
5. August 1985 - June 1986 – F-14 Fleet Replacement Squadron pilot, Naval Air Station, Oceana VA
6. July 1986 - August 1989 - F-14 instructor pilot, and mission commander, Naval Air Station, Oceana VA
7. April 1989 - June 1989 – F-16 conversion course, Luke AFB AZ
8. July 1989 - June 1991 – F-16 exchange officer instructor pilot and mission commander, Homestead ARB FL
9. July 1991 - September 1993 – chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Homestead ARB FL
10. October 1993 - February 2000 – 93d Fighter Squadron Operations Officer, Homestead ARB FL
11. March 2000 - September 2004 – commander, 482d Operations Group, Homestead ARB FL

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot
Flight Hours: 3,300
Aircraft Flown: F-14, F-16, F-18, A-4, T-2 and T-34

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Ensign, 25 May 1983
Lieutenant Junior Grade, 25 May 1985
Lieutenant (USN), 30 June 1987
Captain (USAFR), 17 July 1991
Major, 5 March 1993
Lieutenant Colonel, 15 Oct 1997
Colonel, 30 March 2001

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with second oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four 3 oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters
National Defense Service Medal with 1 service star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

(Current as of September 2004)